



City of Huntington Beach  
Community Services Commission

## HUNTINGTON CENTRAL PARK COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Wednesday, April 12, 2017  
6:00 PM | Room B-8  
2000 Main Street  
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

### Committee Members

**Present:** Antonio Benitez; Albert Gasparian; Janis Mantini;  
Krista Sterud

### Committee Members

**Absent:** Bridget Kaub (excused)

### Community Members

**Present:** Ann Anderson, *Urban Forest/HB Tree Society*; Mary Behrens, *HB Equestrian Center*; Shari Engel, *Secret Garden*; Steve Engel, *Secret Garden*; Kay Goddard, *Shipley Nature Center*; Tom Livengood, *Shipley Nature Center*; Kathy May, *Lakeview Café/Sports Complex Concessions*; Juana Mueller, *Secret Garden*

### Committee Members

**Absent:** Mike Bartusick, *Park Bench Café* (excused); Vic Leipzig, *Sea & Sage Audubon Society* (absent); Jean Nagy, *Urban Forest/HB Tree Society* (excused)

### Council Members

**Present:** Mayor Barbra Delgleize

**Staff Present:** Janeen Laudenback, David Dominguez; Charlene Gomez  
Nashya Sadono; Denny Bacon, Antonia Graham

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### CALL TO ORDER | ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm by Committee Member Gasparian.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Betty Reinerston voiced her concern about ATV tire tracks in Central Park coming from the lake, which appeared to be created during the filming of a video. Ms. Reinertson asked if the City approved this type of activity.

### **PERMANENT PARKING LOT**

Laudenback reported that at the time the agenda was produced, information had not yet been received from the Attorney's Office regarding the settlement agreement, saying it is to remain the same with no development whatsoever. Therefore, the direction is to keep the parking lot in the same location but to improve it. Discussion continued on the conceptual plan that will tie the permanent lot in to the driveway for the senior center. Dominguez said conceptual plan will be prepared, and the recommendation will go from Committee to Commission, who in turn will send the recommendation to Council for final approval.

Laudenback said the good news is that there is now clear direction to come up with the best possible plan from the available options for the permanent lot, and the other positive is that there is money in the CIP for the permanent parking lot. This result provides a firm direction for the conceptual design.

Sheri Engel voiced her concern regarding the length of time for this type of process to be implemented and would like to see the parking lot closed in the interim because in her opinion, it is hazardous due to the dust particles and the unevenness of the surface. Dominguez said that once a timeline is put together, there may be a possibility that Public Works can make some temporary fixes to help alleviate some of the issues, and possibly close it off during unused hours. Mueller also voiced her approval to close it until the development of the permanent lot. Laudenback said this is a point that staff will consider. Livengood voiced his concerns regarding handicap visitor access if the lot is closed and they have to use a lot further away. Laudenback concurred, saying that it may give the misimpression that the lot is not needed, when it is something that has been fought for, for many years. Laudenback said that staff will look at options and recommendations. This item will be agendaized for the next meeting and will be included on the Commissions agenda so that they can take action.

Discussion ensued on the size of the lot, with and without the settlement agreement, and various options of connecting to the signal driveway. Dominguez and Laudenback commented that the size of the lot and access was limited by the settlement agreement area but, not by code.

### **CENTRAL PARK UPDATE**

Laudenback said that she reviewed the information from the last meeting and listed the priorities on the agenda. Confirmation on whether the trail grant is approved or not is expected in June. Behrens asked how the trails will be enhanced. Dominguez said that like Bartlett Park, they would be bordered with landscape timbers and surfaced with decomposed granite. There was discussion on the areas and materials to be used for the trails. Behrens addressed concerns with the ventilation, flowers and overgrowth of vegetation around the Raptor Habitat, feeling that it causes a danger by obscuring the fencing. Dominguez said that Community Services Department is working with the Public Works Department to have the area trimmed back.

Mueller asked for a status on the City Attorney's work with Brindle. Dominguez said it a progressive dialog and staff is still working on it.

Laudenback reviewed the priorities as I set forth at the previous meeting, saying that they will go to Commission at the May meeting since no quorum was met for April. Laudенback also explained that staff has set the priorities for the next 5-years for the CIP. The plan can vary, but projects will be submitted to Council annually. Public Works has added items to their CIP list as well.

Goddard asked why the grass and tree roots are still mowed over regularly. She suggests once a week. Anderson said the Tree Society uses mulch around the trees so that mowing isn't necessary. It also helps to keep the moisture in. Laudенback said she will ask Public Works staff to attend the next meeting to address this and other issues.

Mueller asked about installing or upgrading irrigation in sections. Laudенback informed the Committee that she has addressed this idea with Public Works in the past and found out that it is not cost or time effective to handle the irrigation in piece mill.

Laudенback said that the Park Fund can be used for restroom renovations since it is considered development – not maintenance, which isn't an allowable Park Fund use. The restroom near Kathy May's is being included in the upcoming CIP budget.

Shari Engel asked who determines the time schedules for park restrooms. Laudенback said that Public Works can address it at the next meeting. Dominguez said that typically the time is set to the park hours.

#### **COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS:**

Behrens asked if trails were extended on Ellis at the Planning Commission. Dominguez responded that he was unaware but Planning Commission actions will be posted on the City's website.

Dominguez addressed the "filming" issue as brought forward in public comments. The Community Services Dept. was not aware of the filming. The Office of Business Development (OBD) handles film permits and usually informs Community Services when there will be filming in a park. However, no information was received for this particular shoot. Laudенback said staff will get back to Committee on OBD's protocol.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm.

Submitted by:

David C. Dominguez  
Secretary, Community Services Commission

By: Charlene Gomez, Recording Secretary